

RESEARCH REPORT



442 King Street East
Oshawa

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Historical Attributes

Summary

The dwelling at 442 King Street East was most likely built in the mid nineteenth century. A dwelling in this location has been a landmark since the mid nineteenth century. This home is a fine example of an early Upper Canada rural home representative of the Classic Revival style. The house survives on a medium sized lot with mature vegetation.

Early Lot History

The subject property is on the South west part of Lot 7, Concession 2, East Whitby Township, now within the City of Oshawa. It is currently located within Plan number 335, D423709. The dwelling at 442 King Street East is on the north side of King Street East, east of Oshawa Boulevard North and west of Wilson Road.

The 200 acres of Lot 7, Concession 2, East Whitby township were patented on April 21, 1809, by the Honourable John McGill. He sold all 200 acres to Benjamin Stone on May 3, 1817.

Abraham Coryell farmed the land on Lot 7 in Concession 2 beginning in the year 1816. The 1836 East Whitby Directory indicates that Abraham Coryell Sr., A.C. Jr., Daniel Coryell were freeholders of Concession 2 Lot 7. The directory does not indicate if there was a dwelling located on the lot at this time.

Drew Family

The owners of the home were the Drew Family.¹ The 1860 Tremain Map of Ontario County indicates that lot 7, concession 2 was owned by the Drew Family, unfortunately the first initials of Drew are not legible on the map viewed. There is no dwelling present on the property at that time. The portion owned by the Drew family in 1860 would have been approximately 40 acres which most likely included a farm. A barn can be seen in the photograph from c.1880. It was located behind the family home in the photograph. There is a possibility that this home may have been originally owned by L.G Drew who was a prominent Lawyer in Oshawa. He was also a member of the Thirty Club that was in Oshawa. Further research on the Drew family may be required to confirm if he was the original owner of the home.

The *1921 City of Oshawa Directory* indicates an A.V. Drew living at 442 King Street East.

The *1952 Dominion of Canada, List of Electors for Oshawa Urban Polling Division No. 34* lists George Drew, a General Motors Employee, residing with his wife Mrs. George Drew also living

¹ Interview, Roy Simpson, September 2010

in the household were A.V. Drew who was a widow and Miss Nellie Scorgie who was a stenographer.

The Drew family lived at 442 King Street East until approximately 1960.

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Architectural Attributes

Architectural Background/Date of Construction

The exact date of construction is not known. The home was most likely built in the mid nineteenth century between 1860 and 1880. Its gable roof, three bay design/façade, central doorway and symmetrical elevations are typical of the classic revival style. A building appears in the correct location on the 1877 township map. The Drew family owned the lot during that time and were most likely living in the dwelling.

Style and Form

This stately two storey home has the symmetrical façade of the Georgian style, the low pitched roof of the neo-classical, the dichromatic brick drip mouldings around the windows and doors similar to those that would be found on an Italianate style home. A medium gabled roof has returned eaves. The building rests on its original fieldstone foundation.

The main façade faces south onto King Street East and features a three bay design with a central entranceway.

A one storey extension built off the north facade may have originated as a summer kitchen or living area. This extension is covered in board and batten. It now contains the kitchen and a covered porch area.

Architectural Details

Foundation

The foundation is fieldstone.

Wall Cladding

The two storey portion of the dwelling is covered in red and buff brick. The rear extension or one storey addition on the north façade is clad in board and batten. The dichromatic brick work is featured in the drip mouldings over all the windows and front entranceway. Decorative buff crosses were created in bands along the front façade as well as on the gabled ends of the east and west façades where there are decorative bands of crosses that form a triangular pattern.

Roof

The medium gabled roof with returned eaves is clad in asphalt. At one time there would have been two internal chimneys that peaked the east and west facades of the roofline.

Chimneys

The original chimneys have been removed. At one time there would have been two internal chimneys, with decorative corbelling around the tops, that peaked the east and west facades.² This is evident in the photo of the Drew Family taken in front of 442 King Street East in circa 1880. On the north façade there is evidence of what would have been a third external chimney that has since been removed. The different shade of red brick work on the chimney would indicate that it would not have been original to the home.

Window Openings

All window openings are flat with arched heads. The frames are flat with lugsills. The ground level openings feature 2 over 2 double hung sashes. The upper window openings also feature 2 over 2 double hung sashes. All the windows contain brick soldier courses. All sashes have been replaced but are sympathetic to resemble the design of the original sashes.

Entranceways

One of the many outstanding features of this house is the verandah (gallery) that runs the length of the front façade. Its roof is gabled and covered in asphalt similar to the rest of the house. Simple wooden posts give support while gingerbread trim hangs from a plain architrave.

The restored regency style verandah leads to the entranceway containing a simple front door that is restrained and elegant with a simple arched transom that contains stained glass of varying colours. It was placed there by the previous owners of the home and is not original.

There is a second entranceway located on the rear extension on the north façade.

The current owner found a newspaper from 1946 in the north extension, it was found under the kitchen sink – that is most likely around the time when a modern kitchen was placed in the home.

Condition

The current owner has been conscientious in the repair and maintenance of this dwelling. All modifications are in keeping with the original style and incorporate historic materials. Original elements have been retained, where possible, and infilled or replaced only as needed. Care was taken to introduce custom made reproductions such as mouldings, and other elements. In some instances, it is difficult to separate the original from recent workmanship.

² Photograph circa 1880 of the residence shows the chimneys that peaked the house on the east and west ends. See appendix A.

Summary of Significant Heritage Attributes

Historical Significance

A dwelling in this location has been a landmark since the mid nineteenth century. This home is a fine example of an early Upper Canada rural home representative of the Classic Revival style. The house survives on a medium sized lot with mature vegetation. This homes current location was at one time the boundary of a small community that was called the Village of Harmony. It was located east of the Village of Oshawa which was located west of where this home was built circa 1870.

Significant Architectural Attributes

- Two storey classic revival design, 3-bay design with centrally positioned main entrance.
- Brick construction with original fieldstone foundation
- Dichromatic buff brick drip moldings featured above the windows and front entranceway
- Decorative dichromatic buff brick patterned crosses on the east and west facades
- Uniform fenestration of 2 over 2 windows
- Flat window openings with arched heads reflective of the original window design
- Existing door case reflective of the classic revival style

Contextual Attributes

This pleasant vernacular farmhouse is safely tucked away from highway # 2 (King Street East). It remains to be one of the oldest homes located between Ritson Road and Wilson Road. Further research on the homes in the area may confirm this. It is known to many Oshawa citizens as the “old farm house”.³ Its most outstanding features are the dichromatic buff brick drip mouldings around the window and door openings and the restored regency verandah which is reflective of the porch that stood on the home in 1880 when it was owned by the Drew family. The interior of the home features the original staircase and wide baseboard trim.

³ Discussions between M. Cole and various individuals that have lived in the Oshawa area for a number of years.

Resources

Blumenson, John. Ontario Architecture: A Guide to Styles and Building Terms 1784 to the Present. Toronto 1990.

Beers, J.H. & Co. Illustrated Historical Atlas of County of Ontario. Toronto: 1877

Conveyances Abstract. Durham Regional Land Registrar's Office, Whitby.

East Whitby Township census, 1851-1891. Oshawa Community Archives

East Whitby Township census, 1901. www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet

Genealogy File, Oshawa Community Archives

Harmony Village: Remembering the Settlers and a lost cemetery. Oshawa Historical Society and Oshawa Community Museum, 2010

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Appendix



South Façade, 442 King Street East, Oshawa. Circa 1880



South Façade, 442 King Street East. 1989



East Façade, 442 King Street East, 1998



South Façade, 442 King Street East, September 2010



Basement Window, 442 King Street East, September 2010



Drip Moulding



East Façade



North West Façade, 442 King Street East, September 2010